GC JOKER

殺意の戦鬼 1

SATSUI NO SENKI

小林大樹

SC

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雑誌48130-72

定価：本体600円＋税

SQUARE ENIX

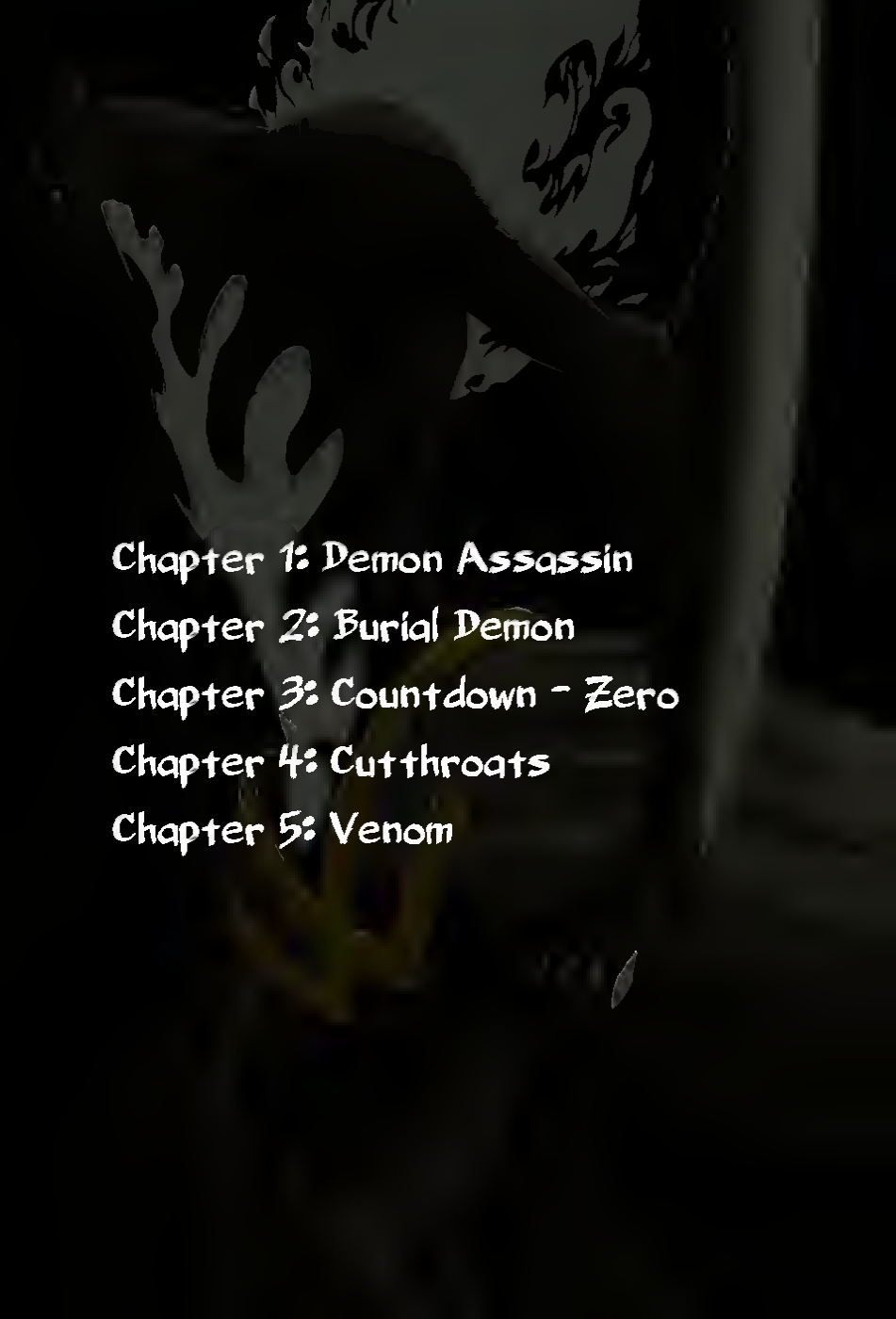
期限以内に
決められた数の人間を
殺してください。

突如鬼と化してしまった高校生、六道ミコト。
彼に課されたノルマは
「制限時間内に決められた数の人間を殺すこと」。

期限内に殺害数を
満たせなかった場合、

期限内に殺害数を満たせなかった場合、
自身の命が奪われてしまうという極限状態の中、ミコトは……。
迫り来る死のカウントダウン……
異能鬼バトルが始まる――

あなた自身の
命が失われます。



Chapter 1: Demon Assassin
Chapter 2: Burial Demon
Chapter 3: Countdown - Zero
Chapter 4: Cutthroats
Chapter 5: Venom

Basic series data

Original name: 殺意の戦鬼

Romanisation (Hepburn): Satsui no Senki

Author: KOBAYASHI Daiki

Serialised in: *Monthly GonGon Joker*

Periodicity: monthly

Started in: 2014

Current status: ongoing

Genre: shōnen, action (battle), supernatural

About this sconlotion

Name order: Western (given name first)

Romanisation standard: Hepburn, modified (no macrons)

Tentative periodicity: monthly

In this world,
there exist such things as demons.
殺意の戦鬼
AO AOE?

命を賭した極限戦闘
殺意の新連載
極限バトルアクション
殺戮の戦鬼
ASSASSING DEMON
SATSUJI NO SENKI
カウントダウン開始。
第一話 戦鬼
FIRST STORY
DEMON ASSASSINS
小林大樹
DAIKI KOBAYASHI

BEEP

THE DEATH TOLL HAS REACHED THE STIPULATED AMOUNT.

HALF OF THE SURPLUS TIME WILL BE ADDED TOWARDS THE NEXT PERIOD.

629:53:44

2

...CONTRACT RENEWAL...

THE NEXT COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN.

TWO PEOPLE, WITHIN THE NEXT 629 HOURS, 53 MINUTES AND 44 SECONDS.

青江碧
Ao Aoe transferred into our school
in mid-May, right after Golden Week.
"Half-baked" wouldn't even begin to describe the occa-sion.
SFX: BRR
N-NI-NI...
CE TO MEET
YOU...

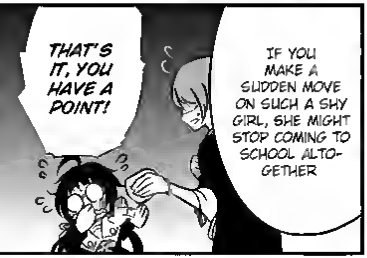
I-I'M A-AO AAAAAOO OEE!
She was at a complete loss about what to say.
I... I-I... D-DON'T H-HAVE ANY H-HOBBIES...
O-O-OR S-SPECIAL S-SKILLS, EITHER... ER
I-I'M A B-BOOKING-PER-SON...
UGH...
In the end, she had a nose-bleed, collapsed and was carried away to the infirmary
As for me, who wit-nessed the whole dis-aster...
SFX: Faint

THAT WAS TOTALLY CUTE,
DON'T YOU THINK?
Average High School First Year — Mikoto Rikudou
SFX JOLT
WEIRD!?
WELL?
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T MEAN ADOR-ABLE?
THAT WAS WEIRD.
His Childhood Friend — Nago Kasumi
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ...

LOOK.
GOOD MORN-ING.
SFX JOLT
GOOD MORNING, AOE-SAN
THUMP

GETTING A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN FROM JUST THAT... IS WEIRD.
TSK, TSK, YOU DON'T GET IT.
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT GIRLS WHO BLUSH ARE CUTE?
IN THAT CASE, GIRLS WHO BLUSH AND GET NOSEBLEEDS ARE SUPER-CUTE, RIGHT?
...WELL, YOUR TASTES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WEIRD, TOO...
Every day, seriously...
KYAA!
WAAH
ズーン

SFX: CRASH

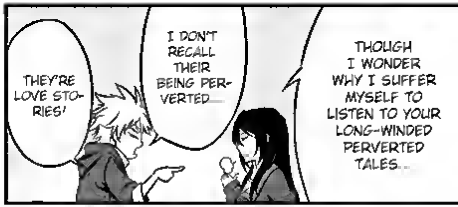

IF YOU MAKE A SUDDEN MOVE ON SUCH A SHY GIRL, SHE MIGHT STOP COMING TO SCHOOL ALTO-GETHER
THAT'S IT, YOU HAVE A POINT!

WELL, THEN, NAGO, WHAT SHOULD I DO? HOW ABOUT I WRITE HER A LETTER FIRST? WE SHOULD START BY BECOMING PEN PALS, RIGHT?
ASK HER FOR HER EMAIL ADDRESS, THEN
...NO, RATHER, I THINK IT WILL BE BETTER IF YOU DON'T...

HM?
HOWEVER, PLEASE HOLD YOUR HORSES THIS TIME.
LOOK, YOU HAVE "FLASHY GUY" WRITTEN ALL OVER YOU.

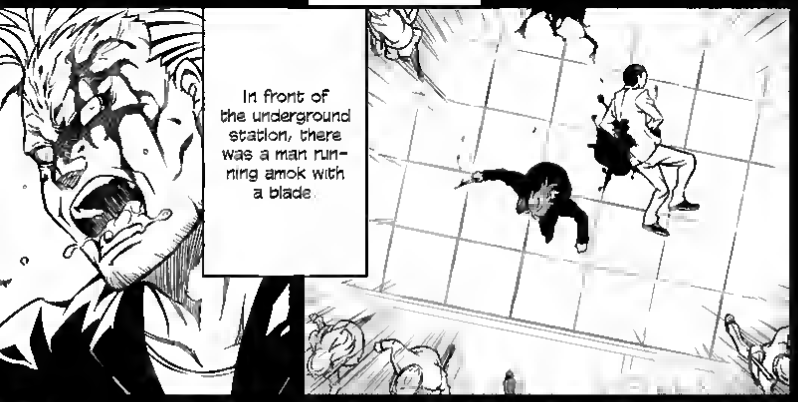
INSTEAD HOW ABOUT WE TALK ABOUT YOUR STORY THAT A DEMON TRIED TO KILL YOU YESTERDAY?

NO WAY, NO WAY, NO WAY!? MIKOTO-KUN SAW THE DEMON!?


THEY'RE LOVE STO-RIES!
I DON'T RECALL THEIR BEING PER-VERTED...
THOUGH I WONDER WHY I SUFFER MYSELF TO LISTEN TO YOUR LONG-WINDED PERVERTED TALES...

YEAH... MIKOTO WAS AT THE SCENE YESTERDAY
IS IT ABOUT YESTERDAY'S MURDER?
HUH? DID YOU SAY "DEMON" JUST NOW, NAGO?

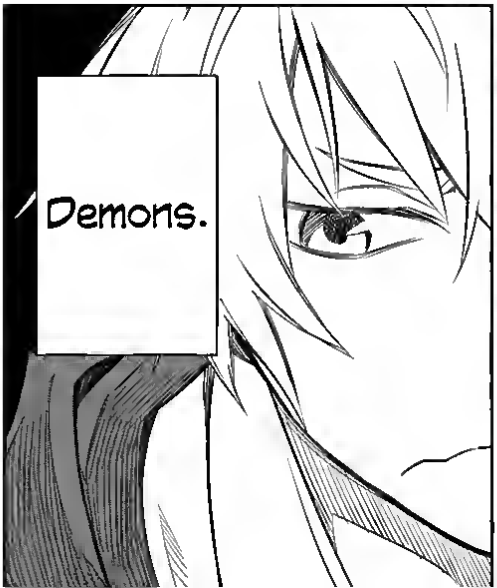
The previous night...



Just like that,
in front of my eyes,
SFX: SPLOOSH

SFX: DING-DONG SFX: DING-DONG

SFX: WAVE WAVE



SERIOUSLY... THEY HAVE NO CONCERN FOR THE FACT THAT I SAW A PERSON DIE AT POINT-BLANK RANGE!
I SHUDDER TO THINK THESE PEOPLE ARE THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY...

When people are killed or go missing, a good, and rising, proportion of eyewitness reports includes mentions of demons. For something considered an urban legend, they have been way too overt.

SFX: GLANCE

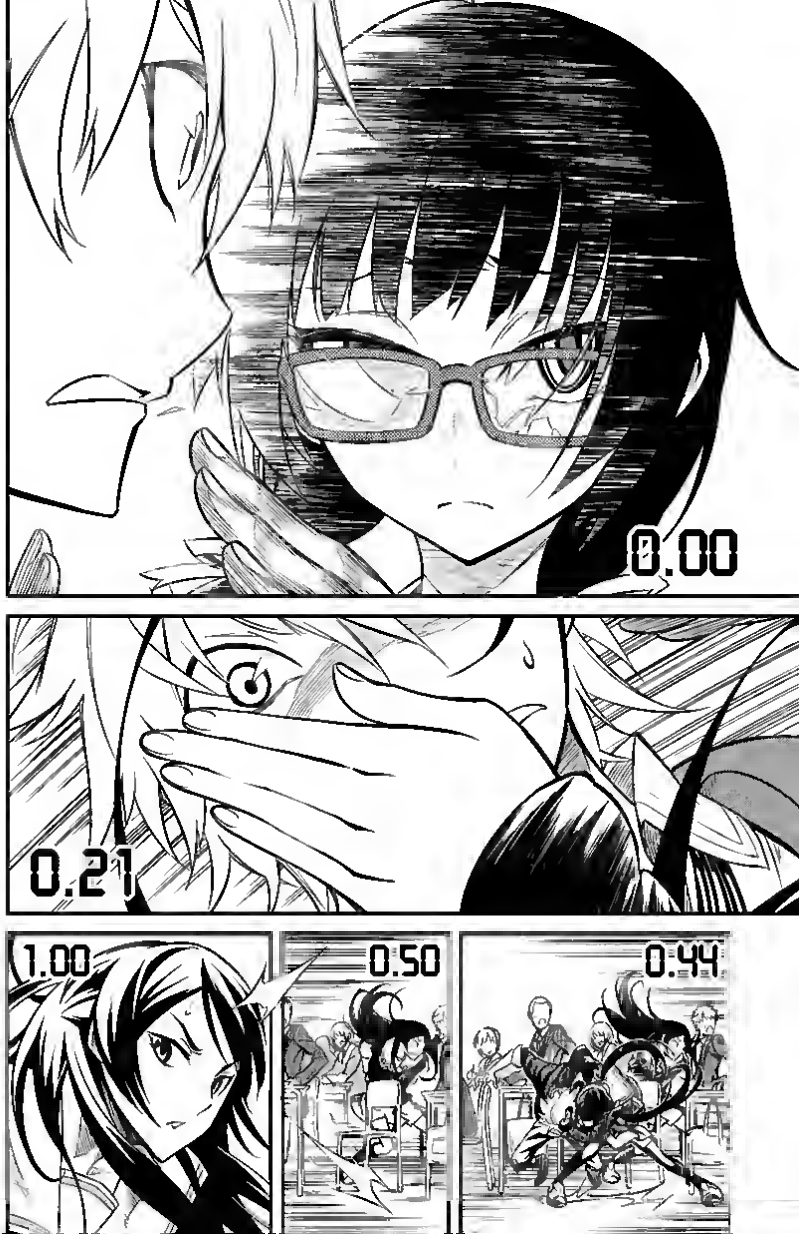
at the end of the day, we know nothing about them.
There is no shortage of theories, but
or terrorists, or whatever.
Their being home-grown psychopaths,

SOUL-SUBSTANCE TUNING
183907725624381083426919145391870262951573880305000097237
SOUL FUSION COMPLETED WITHOUT INCIDENTS. [CURSED HORN] FORMED.

!?
Did nobody else hear that?
AM I HEARING THINGS?
SFX: JOLT
THAT...
WHAT'S WRONG?
IMPOS-SIBLE...

SFX: WHOOSH WHOOSH
WHAT IS?
IMPOS-SIBLE?
?
AH!
!!
SFX: CRACK!

SFX CRACK CRACK
SFX: SMASH
SFX: CREAK!
!!?
SFX: JOLT!
KYAAH!!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
THE WINDOW IS!!
WAAH!

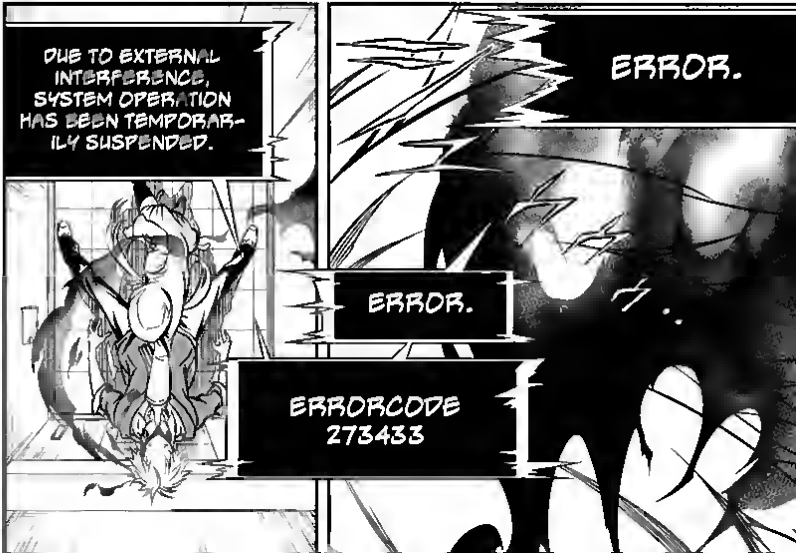

0.00
0.21
1.00
0.50
0.44

MAKE WAY!!
UOOH!
MIKOTO?!
IS IT A POLTER-GEIST!?
SFX: ZOOM!
SFX: SLAM!
UOOH!?

MANI-
FEST!
LOCK!
SFX: WHOOSH
GREAT
ARMY
CRUSH-
ER!
SFX: PULSE!

"SPIRITUAL IMMOBILISER"
CHARM CREATION LIST
SFX: HIGH-PITCHED SOUND
ACCEPTED. CREATING NOW... COMPLETE.
DEMONIC POWER, MAXIMUM!
REPLENISHING DEMONIC POWER... COMPLETE.
HURRY!
[SPIRITUAL IMMOBILISER]

ACTIVATE.


DUE TO EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE, SYSTEM OPERATION HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED.
ERROR.
ERROR.
ERRORCODE 273433

Yesterday,
HAA
HAA
the words came to my mouth...
when I saw the demon,
AO AOE?
Just as I thought.
you are...
The girl I am interested in, Ao Aoe,

A demon...
THANK GOOD-NESS
I JUST BAKELY
MADE IT IN TIME!
SFX: HAH!
SFX: "KYUN", EXPRESSING ENDEARMENT

NO, NO, WAIT A SEC, JUST CALM DOWN, AOE!
SFX: BLUSH BLUSH
SO-SO-SO-SO-SO-SORRYYY! I HAVE TOUCHED YOU LIKE THAT AND MUST HAVE CAUSED YOU SUCH DISCOMFORT AND... I'M SO-SORRY!
AAA RRR GH!
WELL, CERTAINLY, FOR A FIRST CONTACT, I ADMIT I WAS SHOCKED TO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO A TOILET STALL, BUT
SFX: ALL OVER, FIDGET F DGET
SFX: WHAM WHAM
SFX: CRASH!
SFX: THRASHING AROUND
WHAT'S WITH THIS THING... THERE ARE MANY THINGS I WANT TO ASK, BUT FIRST TELL ME WHAT THIS PIECE OF PAPER...
OH...
GAH!
SFX: CRACK

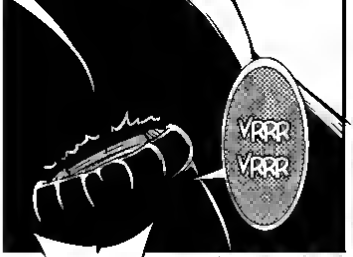
SFX: GRAB!

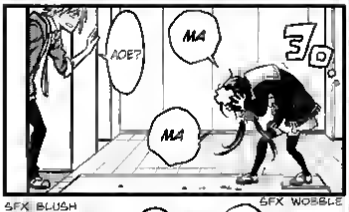
DON'T REMOVE IT!!
UGH!

YOU WERE MIRACU-LOUSLY LUCKY
BEING ABLE TO SUPPRESS IT BEFORE IT STARTS IS EXCEEDINGLY RARE

BY ITS VERY NATURE THE "DEMONIC CONVERSION" HAPPENS WITHOUT PRIOR WARN-ING... IT'S A COMPLETELY SUDDEN THING
I'VE STOPPED IT, JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME...

PLEASE...
DON'T REMOVE THAT, NO MATTER WHAT!
YOU...
YOU'RE SAYING THAT, IF I REMOVE IT— I'LL TURN INTO A DEMON?
.....
WHAT ARE DEMONS, ANYWAY?
IF I TURN INTO ONE— WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME?
SFX: DRIP DRIP

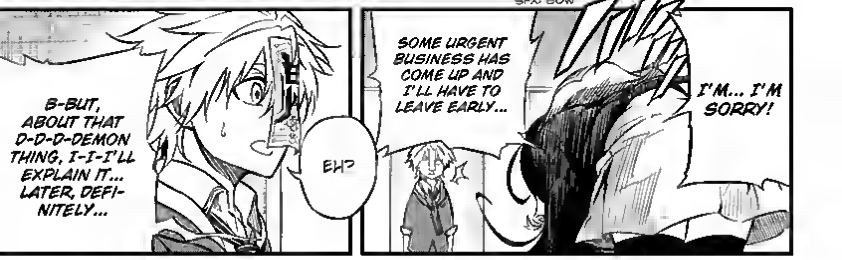




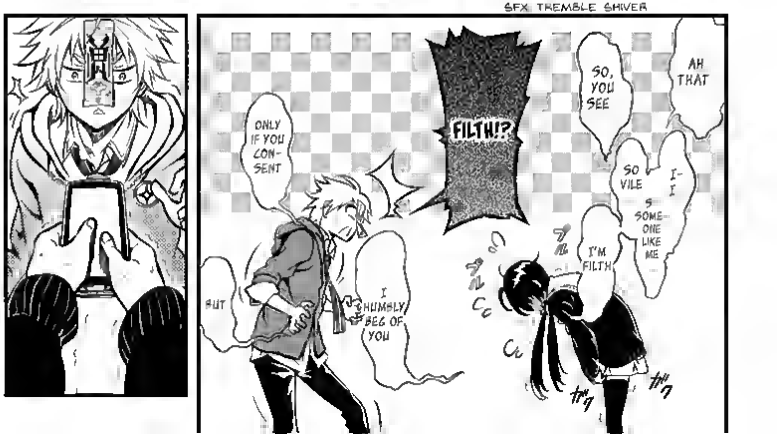
SFX: BLUSH

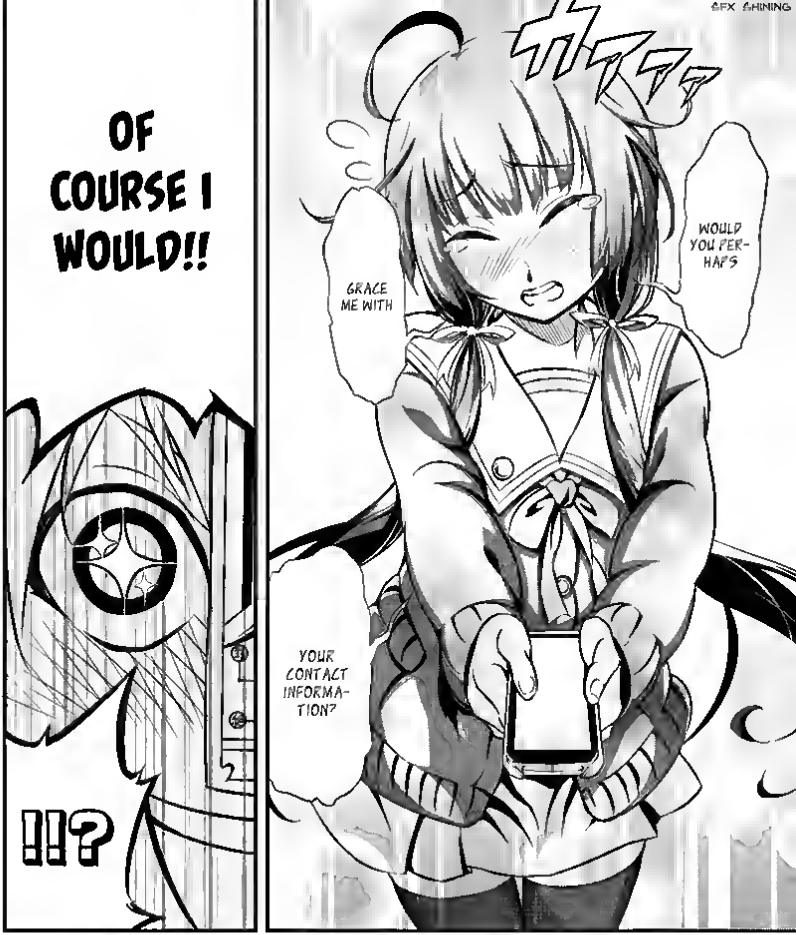
SFX: WOBBLE

SFX: BOW


B-BUT, ABOUT THAT D-D-D-DEMON THING, I-I-I'LL EXPLAIN IT... LATER, DEFINITELY...
EH?
SOME URGENT BUSINESS HAS COME UP AND I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE EARLY...
I'M... I'M SORRY!

SFX: TREMBLE SHIVER




SFX: SHINING
WOULD YOU PER-HAPS
GRACE ME WITH
YOUR CONTACT INFORMA-TION?
OF COURSE I WOULD!!
!!?

SFX: BLAH BLAH
Please, tell me your birthday too.
Eh?
Eh?
After that, she almost lost what was left of her composure while we exchanged contact information.
SFX: EOW. SWISH!
Then, she said, "Th-Thi... n-nobody... tell.. plea..!" (Please, don't tell any of this to anybody) and left.

THIS IS GOING TO BE TOUGH.
HOW THE HELL AM I GOING TO CARRY OUT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN THIS CONDITION?
AND WHAT SORT OF CHARACTER IS THIS, I WONDER...
SFX: LEAP LEA
AM I SUPPOSED TO KEEP THIS THING HERE A SECRET?
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO...I'M NERVOUS!
SFX: BA-DUMP BA-DUMP
SFX: JOLT
WHOA!
MIKOTO?
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING
...IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
SFX: LEAP
It was the women's toilet.
WOMEN
N-N-NAGO, WHAT, WHY ARE YOU IN THE MEN'S TOILET.

HAA
HAA
SFX PUFF
YOU'RE LATE.
SFX EEEK

GET IN.
HM...
THAT ...
SFX: TURN
50
.....

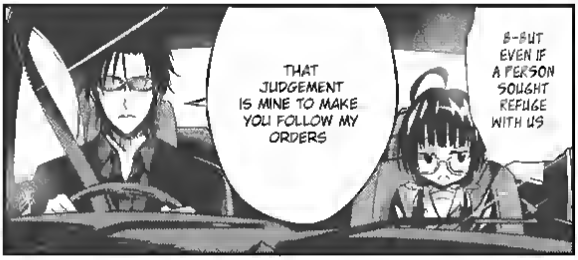
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT? WAS IT YOU?
THAT WAS QUITE SOME SPECTACLE, THE WAY THEY SHATTERED
SFX: JOLT
SO, THE WINDOWS.
I DON'T KNOW
I-
I-
I-
I...
WELL, THEN, WHAT WAS IT?
IT WASN'T
N-NO,
HMMM...

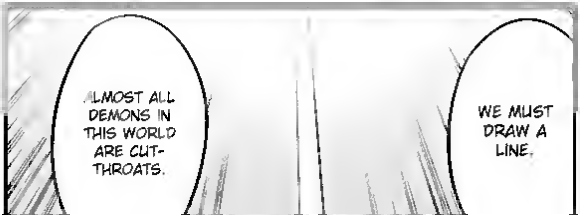
WELL, I'LL HAVE YOU TELL ME ABOUT IT IN DETAIL LATER
UGH ...
!
SFX: FLIP
THIS IS OUR TARGET.
HE WAS CAUGHT BY OUR SURVEIL-LANCE NETWORK THIRTY MINUTES AGO AND IS BEING TAILED BY MEMBERS OF THE CURRENT INVESTIGA-TION.
HE SEEMS TO BE A SMALL FRY WHO CONVERTED JUST ABOUT A MONTH AGO, BUT
JUST IN THE PERIOD WE'VE KNOWN OF HIM, HE HAS KILLED MORE THAN 20 PEOPLE. THE BASTARD IS COMPLETELY POSSESSED.
IT'S NOT JUST THIS CASE SINCE THE MONTH BEGAN THERE HAVE BEEN 16 REPOSSESSED CORPSES AND A 60% INCREASE IN MISSING PERSONS
THEY ARE DEFINITELY ON THE RISE.
THE DEMONS.

SFX: SHIVER SHIVER SHIVER

53:59
54:00
IT'S STEADILY GOING DOWN.
IT WON'T STOP.
SCHOOL INFIRMARY
UH
UH
UHH

IT DOESN'T STOP.


THAT JUDGEMENT IS MINE TO MAKE. YOU FOLLOW MY ORDERS.
B-BUT EVEN IF A PERSON SOUGHT REFUGE WITH US


ALMOST ALL DEMONS IN THIS WORLD ARE CUT-THROATS.
WE MUST DRAW A LINE.

NOW, KILL,
AS FOR YOU, YOU ARE
A DEMON ASSASSIN.
DEMON NUMBER SIX.

I'M FIN-ISHED!
I'M DONE WITH MY PENALTY DUTY...
I went through hell in my class-mates' hands...
Now you've done it, Aoe! I'm doomed!
SFX: DASH DASH DASH
Eeh, what is it...?
The hell?
DO I LOOK LIKE I'M KIDDING!?
ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME!?
IF I TAKE IT OFF, THIS WILL BECOME A CORPSE PARTY, SO I CANNOT DO IT, CAN I!?
IF YOU DON'T TAKE THAT OFF, I'LL HAVE YOU WEED THE SCHOOL PLOTS AFTER CLASS!!
SFX: TWITCH TWITCH
SFX: TCHAN!
I didn't even yield to the teacher's pressure
and I've protected your bond to me (the charm)!

WITH-
SFX: RUMBLE
I HAVE TO WAIT FOR AOE TO GET IN TOUCH...
WELL, THEN, I'LL GO HOME.
WHA?
?
!?
SFX: CLATTER!
SFX: RUSTLE
JUST NOW...
WHAT WAS THAT?

!
IT'S LONG PAST THE TIME FOR THE PUPILS TO GO HOME.
....HEY, KID, WHAT'S WRONG?
THE NUMBERS WON'T DISAPPEAR.
WHENEVER I CLOSE MY EYES...
THEY ARE THERE.

SFX: WHOOSH
I MUST STOP THEM...
.....!?
I HAVE TO STOP THEM!
I HAVE TO STOP THEM!
SFX: RUMBLE

IF I DON'T,
I'LL DIE.

!!?
SFX: CRASH
WHAT?
WHA-
WHAT THE FUCK IS THAT!?
SFX: MULTIPLE BURSTS
WHA-WHA-WHA-

SFX CRACK
A DE-MON !?
IF I KILL ONE MORE PERSON.
LIKE THIS, I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE THE NUMBERS STOP...
THERE WERE TWO,
NOW THERE'S ONE LEFT.
SFX SCRAPE
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE THIS SIMPLE.
HAHA

SFX: BOOOM!
OH
OH
OH
OH
OH

WHAT'S WRONG?
TSK!

SH-SHIT, WHO WAS THAT BAS-TARD?
HE TRIED TO KILL ME OUT OF THE BLUE!
HAA
HAA
HAA
WHAT DO I DO? I DON'T HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA OF HOW TO COPE WITH A DEMON ATTACK .
SHOULD I CALL THE POLICE? NO...

SFX: CREEP
IN A TIME LIKE THIS, SURELY AO AO-
!
THAT'S RIGHT, AOE!
e...

GAH!
BWAH!?
!?
SFX SLIDE
SFX PUNCH
A-
AO
AOE!!

Incoming call
Ao Aoe
090-9010-22
!
BEEP BEEP
WHERE ...
AOE, ARE YOU THERE!?
SFX BEEP BEEP
A DE-MON?
THAT GUY IS MY PREY!!
DON'T STAND IN MY WAY!!

SEIZE HIM!
SFX: MULTIPLE HITS

IS THAT YOU, AOE!?
HELLO!

WHO ARE YOU!?
IT IS.
SFX: VROOM!
AO'S "DIVINE PROTECTOR" IS FIGHTING ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS, RIGHT?
THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
EH?
WHAT?
UWAAH! SHIT!
IF IT CONTINUES LIKE THIS AO WILL DIE
DIVINE PROTECTOR? IF YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THAT HUGE-ASS DEMON IT'S FIGHTING HERE RIGHT NOW...
SFX: SCRATCH

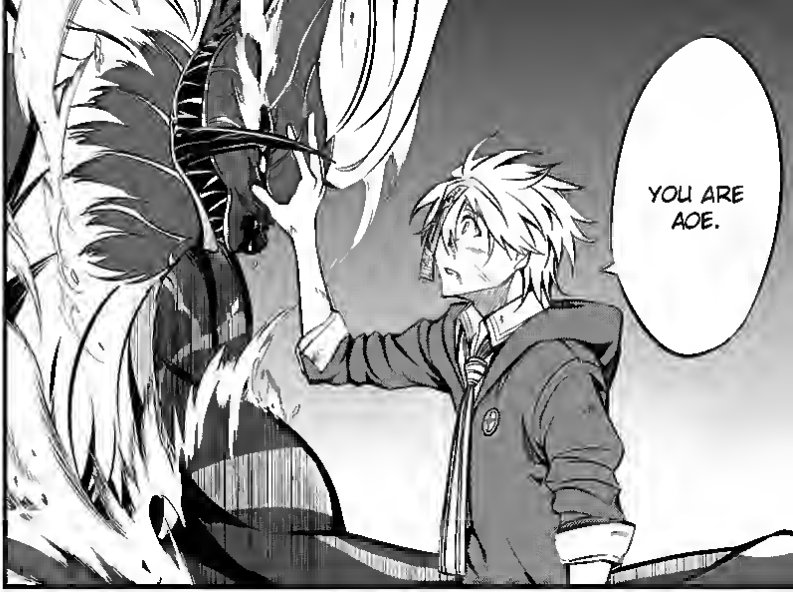
!?
I SAID IF IT CONTINUES LIKE THIS, AO WILL DIE.
BEING CONTROLLED FROM A DISTANCE, THE DIVINE PROTECTOR IS SIGNIFICANTLY WEAKENED. SHE WILL DIE TRYING TO PROTECT YOU.
WHA... WHAT? YOU MEAN, THIS GIANT DEMON FIGHTING HERE IS WEAK!?

SFX: SLIDE
UOOH!?

GIACK!
COUGH...
UGH...
THERE IS A FEEDBACK LINK HERE. THE DAMAGE SUFFERED BY THE PROTECTOR IS TRANSMITTED TO AO
NO WAY...
THAT'S WHY YOU, MIKOTO RIKUDOU, WILL HAVE TO FIGHT.

JUST BREAK THE SEAL, QUICK!
DON'T PLAY STUPID. YOU TURNED INTO A DEMON, DIDN'T YOU?
...NO WAY, NO WAY, HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO FIGHT THAT THING?
!?
DO IT, NOW!
WHY ARE YOU HESITATING, BASTARD?
DON'T REMOVE THAT, NO MATTER WHAT!
DO YOU WANT MY LITTLE SISTER TO DIE!?

SFX: CRACK!
YOU...

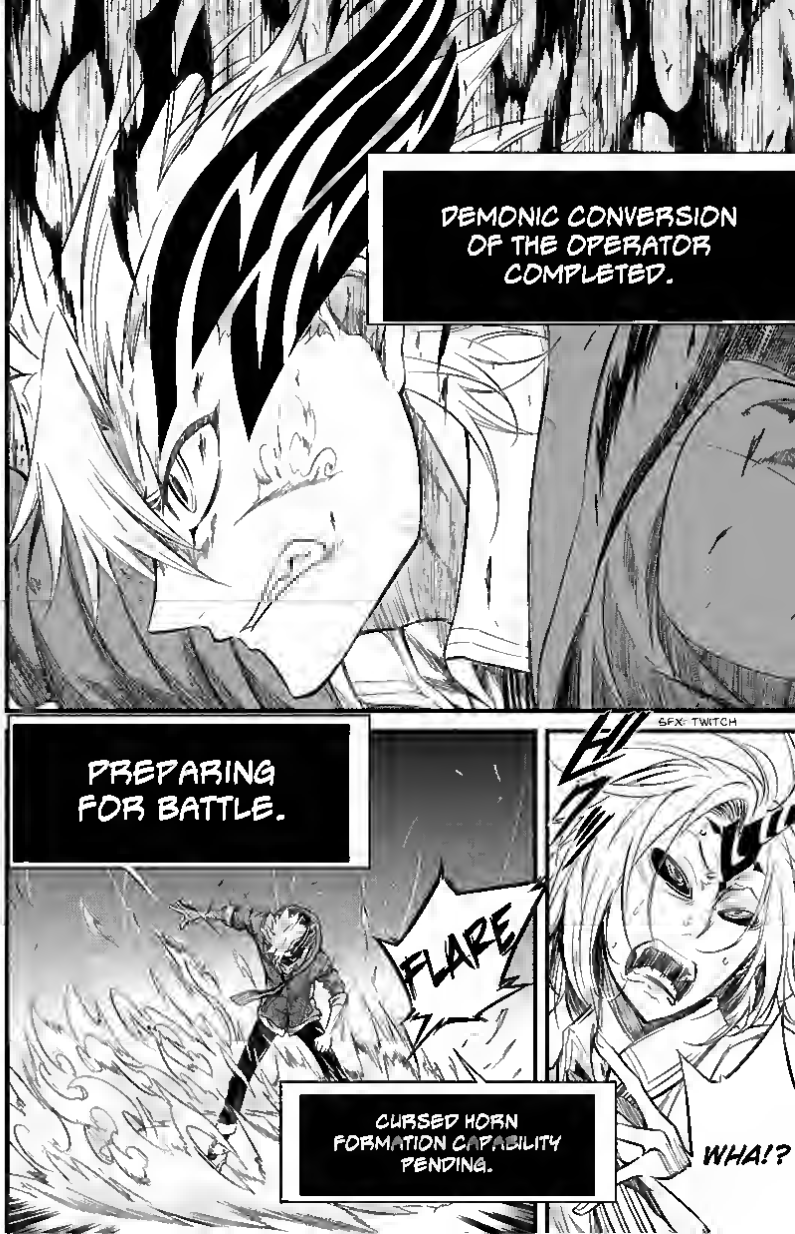

YOU ARE AOE.

I don't understand shit about demons.
And I certainly don't understand your reasons for stopping me.

However, after you showed to me how serious you were about it,
I thought I would fulfill your hopes.
MADE IT IN TIME.
THANK GOOD HERS

But...
I AM SORRY.
I AM TRULY SORRY!
SFX: STEP

IS A NO-GO FOR ME!
SAVING MYSELF AND ABANDONING A GIRL WHO HAS BEEN PROTECT-ING ME,
SFX: FLASH
SFX: WHOOSH
DEMON POWER UNLEASHED.
SKIPPING FULL SYSTEM CHECK.
DANGER TO THE OPERATOR DETECTED.


DEMONIC CONVERSION OF THE OPERATOR COMPLETED.
PREPARING FOR BATTLE.
FLARE
CURSED HORN FORMATION CAPABILITY PENDING.
SFX: TWITCH
HI
WHA!?

MILITARY MODE 1, SEMI-AUTONOMOUS.
SFX: THUD
DIVINE PROTECTOR - SWORD-WIELDING RASETSU
MANIFESTING.

KILL IIIII IT!!
THAT THING, ONCE AND FOR ALL,
SHIT, WHAT'S WITH THAT... IN THE END, EVEN YOU ARE A DEMON TOO... THAT'S FINE, YEAH, NO PROBLEM...
SFX: FLASH
BLADE EXORCISM.

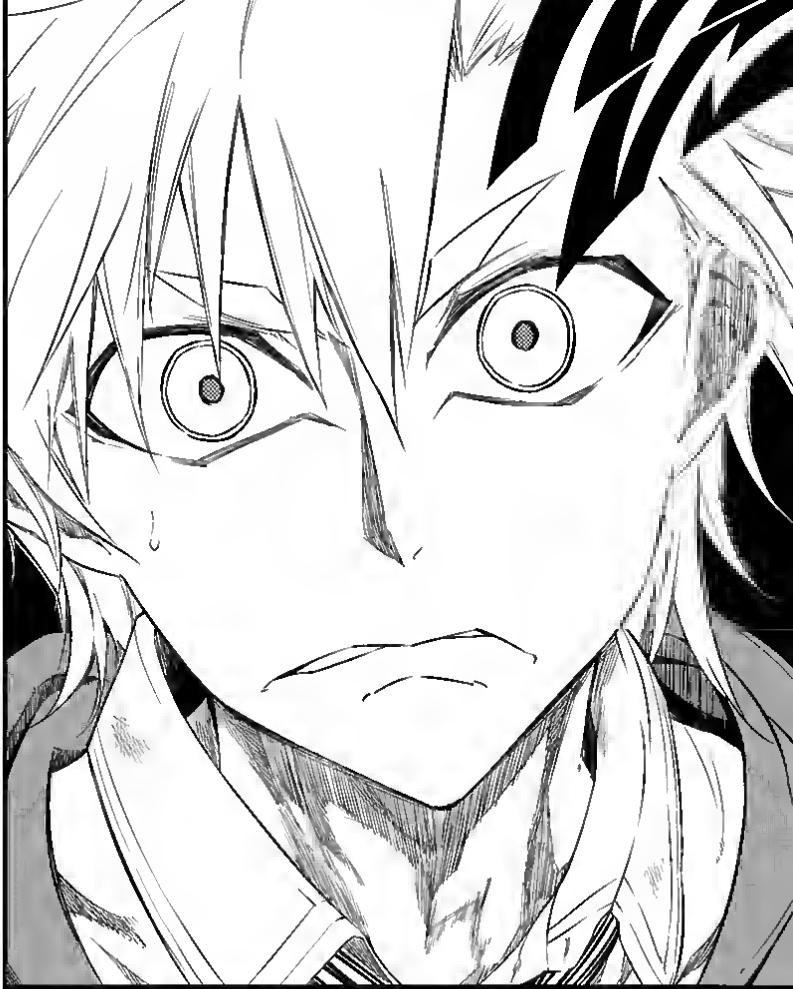
SFX: SLASH
SFX: TWIRL
SFX: FLARE
SFX: WHOOSH
SFX: SQUIRM, SQUIRM
Do anything in particular, and yet...
OOH...
OH...
I didn't...

UOOOOH!!
I won!

SYSTEM - SATISFACTORY. YOUR DEMONIC CONVERSION PROCEEDED NORMALLY.
FROM NOW ON, "SWORD-WIELDING RASETSU" WILL PROTECT YOU. THE FULLY-FUNCTIONAL CURSED HORN IT IS EQUIPPED WITH WILL SUPPORT YOU IN BATTLE.
AS INDEMNIFICATION, A QUOTA OF HUMAN LIVES WILL BE LEVIED UPON YOU.
HUH?
A wave of fear swept through me.
No reasoning was needed, I understood it on instinct,
that thing is not my ally.
In that moment...

WITHIN THE SPECIFIED TIME FRAME, PLEASE KILL THE STIPULATED NUMBER OF HUMAN BEINGS.
ACCORDING TO THE RULES, THE METHOD OF KILLING MUST MAKE USE OF YOUR DEMONIC POWER.
YOU ARE WARNED THAT KILLING OUTSIDE OF THE SCOPE OF YOUR POWERS WILL NOT BE COUNTED TOWARDS YOUR QUOTA.
ARE YOU SOME KIND OF GAME MA-CHINE!?
NO, NEVER MIND THAT
FOR DETAILED INFORMATION, PLEASE REVIEW THE CONTENTS OF THE EXPLANATORY SECTIONS BY SELECTING THEM ON THE SYSTEM MENU.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
N-NO WAIT A SECOND
EH?
YOU ARE FREE TO PURSUE THAT COURSE OF ACTION.
HOWEVER, IN THE CON-DITION THAT YOU DO NOT FULFILL YOUR QUOTA WITHIN THE SPECIFIED TIME,
HUH?
NO WAY I'M DOING THAT!
KILLING PEOPLE!?

YOU WILL LOSE
YOUR OWN LIFE.


Lose my life? ...Me?
If I don't kill people, I'll die?
.....

THE COUNTDOWN HAS STARTED.
YOUR FIRST PERIOD IS 72 HOURS.
THE STIPULATED QUOTA IS TWO MURDERS.
WHAT THE FUCK!?

COUGH!
GASP!
AGH!
SFX: RUMBLE
THIS IS HEAVY ...
AOE!?
SFX: WHAM!
START.

SFX: TWITCH, TWITCH
SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT
!!
Aoe...
立川 335
な 6 23

MY GUTS ARE COMING OUT! THEY ARE COMING OUT!!
JUST LET ME GO, AOE!
IT'S A LITTLE HEAVY DOWN HERE!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
AOE!?
コクッ
DON'T RELEASE HIM, NUMBER SIX
SFX NOD
ARE YOU AOE'S BIG BROTHER, FROM THE PHONE CALL?
SFX STEP
I UNDERSTAND YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES

NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY, PUBLIC SAFETY SPECIAL DIVISION, ENFORCEMENT OFFICE, DEMON OF WAR SUPPORTING AGENT.
CHIKA AOE.
EH?
YOU HAVE BECOME A DEMON.

CLOSE THEM.
CLOSE YOUR EYES.
!?
THE COUNTDOWN NUMBERS ARE VISIBLE, RIGHT?
11:58:32
2
IF THEY BECOME ZERO, YOU DIE.
UOH! WHAT THE HECK...
NOW THAT IT HAS COME TO THIS, YOU HAVE ONLY TWO CHOICES.
SFX: HAHA...
THIS IS NOT A JOKE. YOU WILL REALLY DIE.

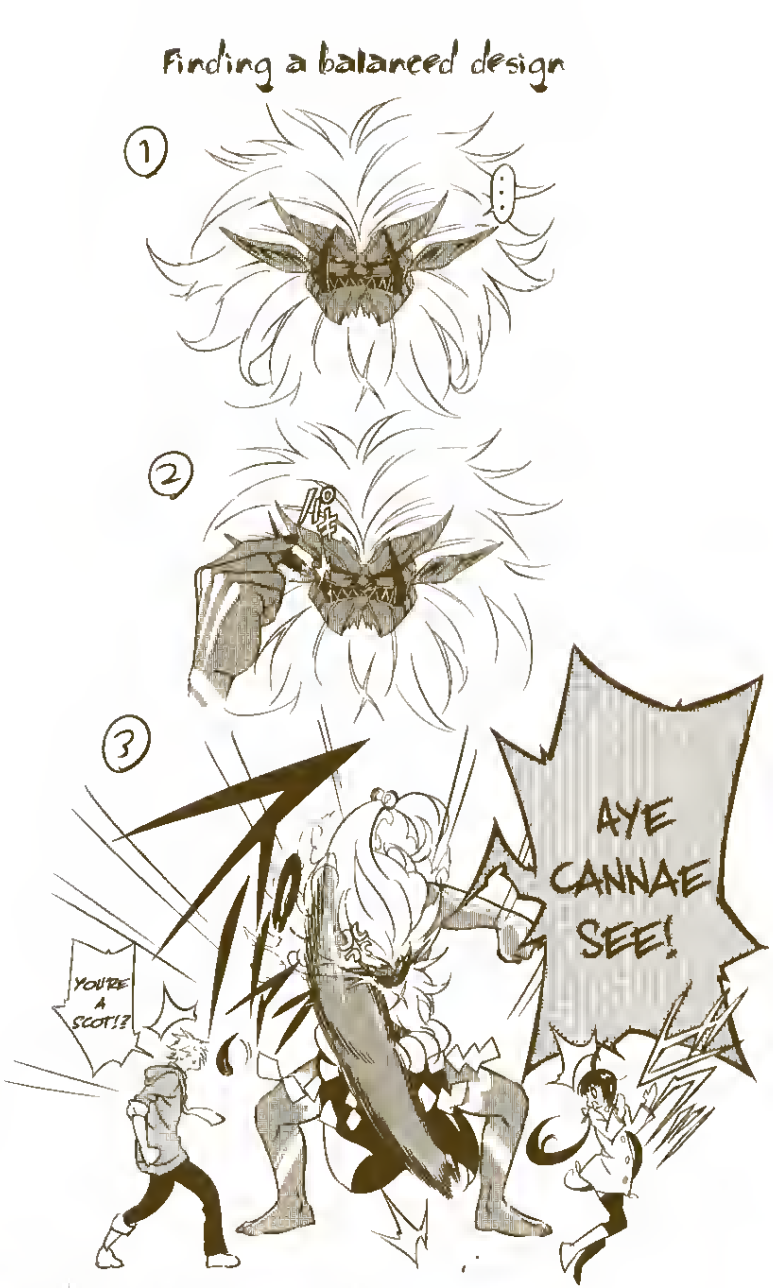
What's this now...
All this shit going on I cannot get at all...
No way... this can't be happening... impossible...
WILL YOU BECOME A DEMON OF WAR AND SERVE THE COUNTRY?
OR ARE YOU GOING TO BECOME A MERE MURDERER?
CHOOSE.

071:58:01

2

:57:59

:58:00



TL note: In the original, the monster uses Kagoshima dialect.
Thanks to Vai for the suggestion on how to adapt this.

GC JOKER

殺意の戦鬼 1

小林大樹

SE

SQUARE ENIX

Series lore (I)

In this section, which may extend for a few chapters as the readers and I get used to the terminology, will address the solutions I have found for terms introduced by the mangaka. As we discover new things about the creatures, spells and the like, I may find out I was completely wrong on my early choices. I apologise in advance.

The title: this series is called *Satsui* no *Senki* in Japanese. *Senki* (戦鬼) means roughly "martial demon", or "demon of war". The whole name is a syntagma akin to the Genitive Case in English (John's book, Elisa's toy and so on), but only superficially so, as it's used in more situations and to different purposes. Had the name been *Senki* no *Satsui*, the (literal) translation would have sounded a little stilted, but acceptable in English: "the demons of war's killing intent". However, it's not unusual in Japanese to invert the position of attribute and the thing it refers to, as in "Lelouch of the rebellion" instead of "Lelouch's rebellion". In these situations, the attribute works more like an adjective than a noun. In that case, the best (literal) translation of the title would be "The murderous demons of war". This sounds silly, though, so I decided to take liberties and chose "Demon Assassins" for the English title. The minor inconvenience is that I cannot refer, in the story, to the characters as "battle demons", since I chose a different thing for the title. Thus, a nuance of the meaning of the word *senki* will be lost in the translation, and for that I apologise.

Soul-substance: *reishitsu* (霊質), or "soul-substance", is a concept in primitive religions, akin to the spark of life, or the impersonal aspect of the soul that dwells within living beings.

Soul fusion: the original syntagma is *konpaku* no *yuugou* (魂魄の融合). The latter part is trivial, but for *konpaku*, a very convoluted Eastern concept of a dual soul, refer to "Hun and Po" in Wikipedia.

Cursed horn: it is the translation of *shukaku* (呪角) and it is not a new concept, having even appeared in *Magic: the Gathering*-like card games.

Great Army Crusher: I am terrible at adapting names, and this is my first time translating a completely new series, too. The original is *haguntaitei* (破軍大帝). *Taitei* is akin to "The Great", as in Alexander. *Hagun* uses the kanji for "to tear" and "army".

Spiritual Immobiliser: the syntagma is *fudoureibakufu* (不動霊縛符). *Fudou* has meaning by itself, "to immobilise". *Reibakufu* seems to have been inspired by a spell in games called Laphas Seed, which uses the same *kanji*, and the effect of which is to immobilise the victim with magical ropes. The implication is that she was stopping Mikoto's demonic conversion on its tracks by force.

Repossessed corpses: I tried hard to avoid using "zombies" here. For one thing, I'm not sure yet that the author means to use the same conventions that have been popularly associated with the idea; for another, the author didn't use the Anglicism *zombi*, but *hotoke* (仏), or "the dead", using the counter for bodies, so I settled by "repossessed corpses". Yeah, I know *hotoke* also means "Buddha"/"merciful person", but it's almost certainly not what is meant here.

Divine protector: new syntagma by the author. *Gohoutai* (護法体), apparently, is the physical manifestation of a deity. More specifically, *gohou* are divine protectors of the doctrine in Mahayana Buddhism.

Sword-wielding Rasetsu: again, I had to adapt this. The original is *kakukenrasetsu* (角剣羅刹). This syntagma has two parts. The first half is something like "angled sword", a reference to the demon's main weapon you have seen. The second half is familiar to manga readers and people knowledgeable in Hindu folklore as *rakshasa*, a type of man-eating demon. However, I like the sound of the Japanese form of their name, *rasetsu*, better.

The Internet, February 28, 2015.

Wraith.

Odd pickings section

(where positions open for other series are briefly announced)

- *Diamond Cut Diamond*: we need a typesetter. Our partners at Outer World Scans need a translator. You will need to pass a test for our positions. For the translator position, I'll put you in touch with our partners.

- *Sprite*: we need a super-redrawer. I mean, you have to have godly skills. You will take an enhanced version of our test and must pass with flying colours. We also need a typesetter, as it seems the output will be a little higher than Kuroto alone can manage right now. You will also need to pass a test, but the series is not difficult. Finally, we need a quality checker to relieve me. You'll need either to have previous experience, or to pass two edition tests.

- *Demon Assassins*: the team is in principle complete, but I could do with a quality checker to relieve me. I like translating it, too, but wouldn't mind being relieved as well, as I already have three series. For that, you will either take a test or prove your previous experience translating manga.

- We are also interested in recruiting more translators for Death Toll. Feel like joining a small, laid-back environment where people work mainly on series they like? Have a series you want to revive, or bring to the English readership for the first time? Consider joining us!

The Internet, March 05, 2015,

Wraith.

First impressions on the series by the translator

Recently, Japanzai released a chapter of *Sky Blue*. I love the series, and it occurred to me that, since it ended a couple of years ago, that if the author was still around, he had to be either working or starving.

A quick check in Mangaupdates and bingo! There it was, a new series, which almost no one had taken notice of (only two hits on Google in English). Kabuto tracked down the first chapter and there we are.

I like Mr Kobayashi's character-building and humour. His plot technique is not particularly original, but he tries here and there to add unexpected elements. All in all, his are the shōnen I enjoy the most right now, with the possible exception of *Attack on Titan*.

The synopsis for this is very trivial. Kid becomes a demon and receives a curse whereby he has to kill other people in pre-determined quotas per period of time. He is then compelled by your usual undercover agency to fulfill his quota by killing other people carrying a similar curse who are a threat to the population. All of this in a Secondary School environment with a healthy dose of comedic relief.

I find the characters likeable and the premise, interesting. So Death Toll once again brings a work by Mr Kobayashi to the Anglosphere (we were the first ones to translate *Sky Blue* as well). The team is motivated and complete, so for now, look forward to steady releases. However, the mangaka is notorious for his huge chapters, rarely under 50 pages, so we cannot promise more than a chapter a month.

I hope you enjoyed the chapter. We have raws in the ready and you can look forward for more from us. Thanks to all the team and to you readers for your appreciation.

The Internet, March 05, 2015,

Wraith.

Demon Assassins

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Translator	-	Wraith
Proofreader	-	Zeroaintdead
Typesetter	-	Asuna-chan
Cleaner	-	Kabuto
Quality Checker	-	Wraith
Redrawer	-	Sarrymast